WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound represented by the formula:

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or ester thereof wherein:

10 R represents hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxyalkyl, heteroaryloxyalkyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, alkanoyl,

aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heterocyclylalkanoyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, heteroaralkanoyl, heteroaralkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxycarbonyl,

heteroaroyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and mono- and disubstituted aminocarbonyl and mono- and disubstituted aminoalkanoyl radicals wherein the substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl,

25 heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyalkyl radicals, or wherein said aminocarbonyl and aminoalkanoyl radicals are disubstituted, said substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl radical;

R' represents hydrogen, radicals as defined for R3 or R*SO₂- wherein R* represents radicals as defined for R 3 ; or R and R' together with the nitrogen to which they are

attached represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radicals;

R1 represents hydrogen, -CH2SO2NH2, -CH2CO2CH3, -CO2CH3, -CONH2, -CH2C(O)NHCH3, -C(CH3)2(SH), -C(CH3)2(SCH3), -C(CH3)2(S[O]CH3), -C(CH3)2(S[O]CH3), alkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and cycloalkyl radicals, and amino acid side chains selected from asparagine, S-methyl cysteine and methionine and the sulfoxide (SO) and sulfone (SO2) derivatives thereof, isoleucine, allo-isoleucine, alanine, leucine, tert-leucine, phenylalanine, ornithine, histidine, norleucine, glutamine, threonine, glycine, allo-threonine, serine, O-alkyl serine, aspartic acid, beta-cyanoalanine and valine side chains;

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 R^{1} ' and R^{1} " independently represent hydrogen and radicals as defined for R^{1} , or one of R^{1} ' and R^{1} ", together with R^{1} and the carbon atoms to which R^{1} , R^{1} ' and R^{1} " are attached, represent a cycloalkyl radical;

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 $\rm R^2$ represents alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl and aralkyl radicals, which radicals are optionally substituted with a group selected from alkyl and halogen radials, -NO2, -CN, -CF3, -OR9 and -SR9, wherein R9

25 represents hydrogen and alkyl radicals, and halogen radicals;

R³ represents alkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, oheterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, aminoalkyl and mono- and disubstituted aminoalkyl radicals, wherein said substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, and heterocycloalkylalkyl radicals, or in the case of a disubstituted aminoalkyl radical, said

substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocycloalkyl or a heteroaryl radical, and thioalkyl, alkylthioalkyl and arylthioalkyl radicals and the sulfone and sulfoxide derivatives thereof:

R4 represents hydrogen and radicals as defined by R3;

R6 represents hydrogen and alkyl radicals;

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- ${\bf R}^7$ and ${\bf R}^7$ ' independently represent hydrogen and radicals as defined for ${\bf R}^3$; amino acid side chains selected from the group consisting of valine, isoleucine, glycine, alanine, allo-isoleucine, asparagine, leucine, glutamine,
- and t-butylglycine; radicals represented by the formulas $-C(0)R^{16}$, $-CO_2R^{16}$, $-SO_2R^{16}$, $-SR^{16}$, $-CONR^{16}R^{17}$, $-CF_3$ and $-NR^{16}R^{17}$; or R^7 and R^7 ' together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl radical;
- 20 R⁸ represents cyano, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radicals and radicals represented by the formulas C(O)R¹⁶, CO2R¹⁶, SO2R¹⁶, SR¹⁶, CONR¹⁶R¹⁷, CF3 and NR¹⁶R¹⁷;
- wherein R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ independently represent hydrogen and radicals as defined for R³, or R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ together with a nitrogen to which they are attached in the formula NR¹⁶R¹⁷ represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radicals;

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- x represents 1 or 2;
- n represents an integer of from 0 to 6;
- 35 t represents either 0, 1 or 2; and

Y represents O, S and NR15 wherein R^{15} represents hydrogen and radicals as defined for R^3 ;

2. Compound represented by the formula:

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wherein:

- 10 R represents hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxyalkyl, heteroaryloxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkoxyalkyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, alkanoyl,
- aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heterocyclyloxycarbonyl, heterocyclylalkanoyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, heteroaralkanoyl, heteroaralkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl,
- heteroaroyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and mono- and disubstituted aminocarbonyl and mono- and disubstituted aminoalkanoyl radicals wherein the substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl,
- heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyalkyl radicals, or where said aminoalkanoyl radical is disubstituted, said substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl radical;

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R' represents hydrogen and radicals as defined for \mathbb{R}^3 or R and R' together with the nitrogen to which they are

attached represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radical;

R1 represents hydrogen, -CH2SO2NH2, -CH2CO2CH3, -CO2CH3, -CONH2, -CH2C(0)NHCH3, -C(CH3)2(SH), -C(CH3)2(SCH3), -C(CH3)2(S[0]CH3), -C(CH3)2(S[0]CH3), alkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and cycloalkyl radicals, and amino acid side chains selected from asparagine, S-methyl cysteine and methionine and the sulfoxide (SO) and sulfone (SO2) derivatives thereof, isoleucine, allo-isoleucine, alanine, leucine, tert-leucine, phenylalanine, ornithine, histidine, norleucine, glutamine, threonine, glycine, allo-threonine, serine, O-methyl serine, aspartic acid, beta-cyanoalanine and valine side chains;

 R^2 represents alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl and aralkyl radicals, which radicals are optionally substituted with a group selected from alkyl and halogen radials, $-NO_2$, $-C\equiv N$, CF_3 , $-OR^9$, $-SR^9$, wherein R^9

20 represents hydrogen and alkyl radicals;

R³ represents alkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, aminoalkyl and mono- and disubstituted aminoalkyl radicals, wherein said substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, and heterocycloalkylalkyl radicals, or in the case of a disubstituted aminoalkyl radical, said substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocycloalkyl or a heteroaryl radical, and thioalkyl, alkylthioalkyl and arylthioalkyl and the sulfone and sulfoxide derivatives thereof;

 R^4 represents hydrogen and radicals as defined by R^3 ;

R⁷ and R⁷' independently represent radicals as defined for R³ and amino acid side chains selected from the group consisting of valine, isoleucine, glycine, alanine, alloisoleucine, asparagine, leucine, glutamine, and t-butylglycine or R⁷ and R⁷' together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl radical;

- 10 R⁸ represents cyano, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radicals and radicals represented by the formulas C(O)R¹⁶, CO₂R¹⁶, SO₂R¹⁶, SR¹⁶, CONR¹⁶R¹⁷, CF₃ and NR¹⁶R¹⁷;
- wherein R^{16} and R^{17} independently represent hydrogen and radicals as defined for R^3 , or R^{16} and R^{17} together with a nitrogen to which they are attached in the formula $NR^{16}R^{17}$ represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radicals;

n represents an integer of from 0 to 6.

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3. Compound of Claim 2 wherein R represents hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, alkanoyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heterocyclyloxycarbonyl, heterocyclylalkanoyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, 30 heteroaralkanoyl, heteroaralkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxycarbonyl, heteroaroyl, aryloxyalkyl, heteroaryloxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and mono- and disubstituted aminocarbonyl and mono- and disubstituted 35 aminoalkanoyl radicals wherein the substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl,

cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyalkyl radicals, or where said aminoalkanoyl radical is disubstituted, said substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl radical;

R' represents hydrogen and radicals as defined for R³ or R and R' together with the nitrogen to which they are attached represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radical;

R1 represents CH₂C(0)NHCH₃, C(CH₃)₂(SCH₃),
C(CH₃)₂(S[0]CH₃), C(CH₃)₂(S[0]₂CH₃), alkyl, alkenyl and
alkynyl radicals, and amino acid side chains selected
from the group consisting of asparagine, valine,
threonine, allo-threonine, isoleucine, tert-leucine,
S-methyl cysteine and the sulfone and sulfoxide
derivatives thereof, alanine, and allo-isoleucine;
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R² represents alkyl, cycloalkylalkyl and aralkyl radicals, which radicals are optionally substituted with halogen radicals and radicals represented by the formula -OR⁹ and -SR⁹ wherein R⁹ represents alkyl radicals; and

R3 represents alkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl and heteroaralkyl radicals;

R4 represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl and heterocycloalkylalkyl radicals;

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 ${\tt R}^7$ and ${\tt R}^7$ ' independently represent alkyl and aralkyl radicals or together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl radical having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms;

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R⁸ represents alkylcarbonyl, aryl, aroyl, aryloxy, aralkanoyl, cyano, hydroxycarbonyl, arylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, hydroxyl, alkoxy, heteroaryl, dialkylaminocarbonyl, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, heterocyclylamino and alkoxycarbonyl radicals; and

n is an integer of from 0 to 6.

- 4. Compound of Claim 2 wherein R represents 15 alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, alkanoyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heterocyclyloxycarbonyl, heterocyclylalkanoyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, 20 heteroaralkanoyl, heteroaralkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxycarbonyl, heteroaroyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and mono- and disubstituted aminocarbonyl and mono- and disubstituted aminoalkanoyl radicals wherein the 25 substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyalkyl radicals, or where said aminoalkanoyl radical is disubstituted, said substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl 30 radical;
- R' represents hydrogen and radicals as defined for R³ or R and R' together with the nitrogen to which they are attached represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radical;

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R1 represents $CH_2C(O)NHCH_3$, $C(CH_3)_2(SCH_3)$, $C(CH_3)_2(S[O]CH_3)$, methyl, propargyl, t-butyl, isopropyl and sec-butyl radicals, and amino acid side chains selected from the group consisting of asparagine, valine, S-methyl cysteine, allo-iso-leucine, iso-leucine, and beta-cyano alanine side chains;

R² represents CH₃SCH₂CH₂-, iso-butyl, n-butyl, benzyl,
10 4-fluorobenzyl, 2-naphthylmethyl and cyclohexylmethyl
radicals;

R³ represents propyl, isoamyl, n-butyl, isobutyl,
 cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, benzyl and pyridylmethyl
15 radicals;

R4 represents hydrogen and methyl, ethyl, i-propyl, propyl, n-butyl, t-butyl, 1,1-dimethylpropyl, cyclohexyl and phenyl radicals;

 ${\tt R}^7$ and ${\tt R}^7$ independently represent methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl radicals, or together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl radical;

R⁸ represents methylcarbonyl, phenyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, isopropoxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, methylsulfonyl, methylthio, phenylsulfonyl, phenyl, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridyl, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridyl N-oxide, N,N-dimethylamino, 1-piperidinyl, 4-morpholinyl, 4-(N-methyl)piperazinyl and 1-pyrrolidinyl; and

35 n represents an integer of from 0 to 6.

- A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 6. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 7. Method of inhibiting a retroviral protease comprising administering a protease inhibiting amount of a composition of Claim 5.
 - 8. Method of Claim 7 wherein the retroviral protease is HIV protease.

- 9. Method of treating a retroviral infection comprising administering an effective amount of a composition of Claim 5.
- 20 10. Method of Claim 9 wherein the retroviral infection is an HIV infection.
- 11. Method for treating AIDS comprising administering an effective amount of a composition of 25 Claim 5.
 - 12. Method of inhibiting a retroviral protease comprising administering a protease inhibiting amount of a composition of Claim 6.

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- 13. Method of Claim 12 wherein the retroviral protease is HIV protease.
- 14. Method of treating a retroviral infection 35 comprising administering an effective amount of a composition of Claim 6.

- 15. Method of Claim 12 wherein the retroviral infection is an HIV infection.
- 5 16. Method for treating AIDS comprising administering an effective amount of a composition of Claim 6.
 - 17. Compound represented by the formula:

wherein:

- 15 R represents hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, arylpxyalkyl, heteroaryloxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, alkanoyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl,
- heterocyclylakanoyl, heterocyclylarbonyl,
 heterocyclylakanoyl, heterocyclylalkanoyl,
 heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, heteroaralkanoyl,
 heteroaralkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl,

 25 heteroaroyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and
- heteroaroyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and mono- and disubstituted aminocarbonyl and mono- and disubstituted aminoalkanoyl radicals wherein the substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl,
- heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyalkyl radicals, or where said aminoalkanoyl radical is disubstituted, said substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they

are attached form a heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl radical;

R' represents hydrogen and radicals as defined for R3 or R and R' together with the nitrogen to which they are attached represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radical;

R1 represents hydrogen, -CH2SO2NH2, -CH2CO2CH3, -CO2CH3,
-CONH2, -CH2C(O)NHCH3, -C(CH3)2(SH), -C(CH3)2(SCH3),
-C(CH3)2(S[O]CH3), -C(CH3)2(S[O]2CH3), alkyl, haloalkyl,
alkenyl, alkynyl and cycloalkyl radicals, and amino acid
side chains selected from asparagine, S-methyl cysteine
and methionine and the sulfoxide (SO) and sulfone (SO2)

derivatives thereof, isoleucine, allo-isoleucine,
alanine, leucine, tert-leucine, phenylalanine, ornithine,
histidine, norleucine, glutamine, threonine, glycine,
allo-threonine, serine, aspartic acid, beta-cyano alanine
and valine side chains;

 R^2 represents alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl and aralkyl radicals, which radicals are optionally substituted with a group selected from alkyl and halogen radicals, -NO2, -C=N, CF3, -OR9, -SR9, wherein R9

25 represents hydrogen and alkyl radicals;

R3 represents alkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, aminoalkyl and mono- and disubstituted aminoalkyl radicals, wherein said substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, and heterocycloalkylalkyl radicals, or in the case of a disubstituted aminoalkyl radical, said substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they

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are attached, form a heterocycloalkyl or a heteroaryl radical, and thioalkyl, alkylthioalkyl and arylthioalkyl radicals and the sulfone and sulfoxide derivatives thereof;

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 ${\tt R4}$ represents hydrogen and radicals as defined for ${\tt R3}$;

R⁷ and R⁷ independently represent radicals as defined for R³ and amino acid side chains selected from the group consisting of valine, isoleucine, glycine, alanine, alloisoleucine, asparagine, leucine, glutamine, and t-butylglycine or R⁷ and R⁷ together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl radical;

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 $\rm R^8$ represents cyano, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radicals and radicals represented by the formulas C(0)R¹⁶, CO2R¹⁶, SO2R¹⁶, SR¹⁶, CONR¹⁶R¹⁷, CF3 and NR¹⁶R¹⁷;

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wherein R^{16} and R^{17} independently represent hydrogen and radicals as defined for R^3 , or R^{16} and R^{17} together with a nitrogen to which they are attached in the formula $NR^{16}R^{17}$ represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radicals:

n represents an integer of from 0 to 6.

18. Compound of Claim 17 wherein R represents
30 hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl,
alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, alkanoyl, aralkanoyl,
aroyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl,
aryloxyalkanoyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl,
beterocyclylcarbonyl,

35 heterocyclyloxycarbonyl, heterocyclylalkanoyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, heteroaralkanoyl,

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heteroaralkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl, heteroaroyl, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxyalkyl, heteroaryloxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and mono- and disubstituted aminocarbonyl and mono- and disubstituted aminoalkanoyl radicals wherein the substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl radicals, or where said aminoalkanoyl radical is disubstituted, said substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl radical;

R' represents hydrogen and radicals as defined for R³ or R and R' together with the nitrogen to which they are attached represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radical;

R1 represents hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl radicals, and amino acid side chains selected from the group consisting of asparagine, valine, threonine, allothreonine, isoleucine, tert-leucine, S-methyl cysteine and the sulfone and sulfoxide derivatives thereof, alanine, and allo-isoleucine;

 ${\rm R}^2$ represents alkyl, cycloalkylalkyl and aralkyl radicals, which radicals are optionally substituted with halogen radicals and radicals represented by the formula $-{\rm OR}^9$ and $-{\rm SR}^9$ wherein ${\rm R}^9$ represents hydrogen and alkyl and halogen radicals;

R3 represents alkyl, halalkyl, alkenyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaralkyl radicals;

R4 represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl and heterocycloalkylalkyl radicals;

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R⁷ and R⁷ independently represent alkyl and aralkyl radicals or together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl radical having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms;

10

R⁸ represents alkylcarbonyl, aryl, aroyl, aryloxy, aralkanoyl, cyano, hydroxycarbonyl, arylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, hydroxyl, alkoxy, heteroaryl, dialkylaminocarbonyl, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino,

15 heterocyclylamino and alkoxycarbonyl radicals; and

n represents an integer of from 0 to 6. '

- 19. Compound of Claim 17 wherein R represents 20 hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, alkanoyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, 25 heterocyclyloxycarbonyl, heterocyclylalkanoyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, heteroaralkanoyl, heteroaralkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl, heteroaroyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and mono- and disubstituted aminocarbonyl and mono- and disubstituted 30 aminoalkanoyl radicals wherein the substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyalkyl radicals, or where
- said aminoalkanoyl radical is disubstituted, said 35 substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they

are attached form a heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl radical;

R' represents hydrogen and radicals as defined for R³ or S R and R' together with the nitrogen to which they are attached represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radical;

R1 represents hydrogen, methyl, propargyl, t-butyl,
isopropyl and sec-butyl radicals, and amino acid side
chains selected from the group consisting of asparagine,
valine, S-methyl cysteine, allo-iso-leucine, iso-leucine,
threonine, serine, aspartic acid, beta-cyano alanine, and
allo-threonine side chains;

R² represents CH₃SCH₂CH₂-, iso-butyl, n-butyl, benzyl, 4-fluorobenzyl, 2-naphthylmethyl and cyclohexylmethyl radicals;

20 R³ represents propyl, isobutyl, isoamyl, n-butyl, n-propyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, benzyl and pyridylmethyl radicals;

R4 represents hydrogen and methyl, ethyl, i-propyl,
15 n-butyl, t-butyl, 1,1-dimethylpropyl, cyclohexyl and
phenyl radicals;

R⁷ and R⁷ independently represent methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl radicals, or together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl radical;

 R^8 represents methylcarbonyl, phenyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl,

isopropoxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, methylsulfonyl, methylthio, phenylsulfonyl, phenyl, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridyl, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridyl N-oxide, N,N-dimethylamino, 1-piperidinyl, 4-morpholinyl, 4-(N-methyl)piperazinyl and 1-pyrrolidinyl; and

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n represents an integer of from 0 to 6.

- 20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable 10 carrier.
 - 21. Method of inhibiting a retroviral protease comprising administering a protease inhibiting amount of a composition of Claim 20.

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- 22. Method of Claim 21 wherein the retroviral protease is HIV protease.
- 23. Method of treating a retroviral infection 20 comprising administering an effective amount of a composition of Claim 20.
 - 24. Method of Claim 23 wherein the retroviral infection is an HIV infection.

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25. Method for treating AIDS comprising administering an effective amount of a composition of Claim 20.

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26. Compound represented by the formula:

wherein:

R represents hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, alkanoyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heterocyclyloxycarbonyl, heterocyclylalkanoyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, heteroaralkanoyl, heteroaralkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxy-carbonyl, heteroarcyl, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, 10 aryloxyalkyl, heteroaryloxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and mono- and disubstituted aminocarbonyl and mono- and disubstituted aminoalkanoyl radicals wherein the substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, 15 heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyalkyl radicals, or where said aminoalkanoyl radical is disubstituted, said substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl radical; 20

R' represents hydrogen and radicals as defined for R³ or R and R' together with the nitrogen to which they are attached represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radical;

R1 represents hydrogen, -CH2SO2NH2, -CH2CO2CH3, -CO2CH3, -CONH2, -CH2C(0)NHCH3, -C(CH3)2(SH), -C(CH3)2(SCH3), -C(CH3)2(S[0]CH3), -C(CH3)2(S[0]CH3), alkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl and cycloalkyl radicals, and amino acid side chains selected from asparagine, S-methyl cysteine and methionine and the sulfoxide (SO) and sulfone (SO2) derivatives thereof, isoleucine, allo-isoleucine, alanine, leucine, tert-leucine, phenylalanine, ornithine, histidine, norleucine, glutamine, threonine, glycine,

allo-threonine, serine, aspartic acid, beta-cyano alanine and valine side chains:

R1' and R1" independently represent hydrogen and radicals as defined for R1, or one of R1' and R1", together with R1 and the carbon atoms to which R1, R1' and R1" are attached, represent a cycloalkyl radical;

R² represents alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl
and aralkyl radicals, which radicals are optionally
substituted with a group selected from alkyl and halogen
radials; -NO₂, -C=N, CF₃, -OR⁹ and -SR⁹, wherein R⁹
represents hydrogen and alkyl radicals;

- R³ represents alkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, aminoalkyl and mono- and disubstituted aminoalkyl radicals, wherein said
- substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, and heterocycloalkylalkyl radicals, or in the case of a disubstituted aminoalkyl radical, said substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they
- are attached, form a heterocycloalkyl or a heteroaryl radical, and thioalkyl, alkylthioalkyl and arylthioalkyl radicals and the sulfone and sulfoxide derivatives thereof;
- 30 R4 represents hydrogen and radicals as defined by R3;

 ${\bf R}^7$ and ${\bf R}^7$ independently represent radicals as defined for ${\bf R}^3$ and amino acid side chains selected from the group consisting of valine, isoleucine, glycine, alanine, allowed

isoleucine, asparagine, leucine, glutamine, and t-butylglycine or R⁷ and R⁷ together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl radical;

R⁸ represents cyano, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radicals and radicals represented by the formulas C(O)R¹⁶, CO2R¹⁶, SO2R¹⁶, SR¹⁶, CONR¹⁶R¹⁷, CF3 and NR¹⁶R¹⁷;

wherein R^{16} and R^{17} independently represent hydrogen and radicals as defined for R^3 , or R^{16} and R^{17} together with a nitrogen to which they are attached in the formula $NR^{16}R^{17}$ represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radicals;

15 n represents an integer of from 0 to 6.

27. Compound of Claim 26 wherein R represents an arylalkanoyl, heteroaroyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, aryloxycarbonyl, alkanoyl, aminocarbonyl, mono-.
20 substituted aminoalkanoyl, or disubstituted aminoalkanoyl, or mono-or dialkylaminocarbonyl radical;

R' represents hydrogen and radicals as defined for R3 or R and R' together with the nitrogen to which they are attached represent a heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl radical;

R1, R1° and R1° independently represent hydrogen and alkyl radicals having from 1 to about 4 carbon atoms,

30 alkenyl, alkynyl, aralkyl radicals, and radicals represented by the formula -CH2C(O)R° or -C(O)R° wherein R° represents R38, -NR38R39 and OR38 wherein R38 and R39 independently represent hydrogen and alkyl radicals having from 1 to about 4 carbon atoms;

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 ${\rm R}^2$ represents alkyl, cycloalkylalkyl and aralkyl radicals, which radicals are optionally substituted with halogen radicals and radicals represented by the formula ${\rm -OR}^9$ and ${\rm -SR}^9$ wherein ${\rm R}^9$ represents hydrogen and alkyl radicals; and

R³ represents alkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaryl and heteroaralkyl radicals;

R⁴ represents hydrogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl,
 cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl,
 heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl and heterocycloalkylalkyl
15 radicals;

 ${\bf R}^7$ and ${\bf R}^7$ ' independently represent alkyl and aralkyl radicals or together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl radical having from 3 to 8 carbon atoms;

R8 represents alkylcarbonyl, aryl, aroyl, aryloxy, aralkanoyl, cyano, hydroxycarbonyl, arylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, hydroxyl, alkoxy, heteroaryl, dialkylaminocarbonyl, dialkylamino, cycloalkylamino, heterocyclylamino and alkoxycarbonyl radicals.

28. Compound of Claim 26 wherein R represents an arylalkanoyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aryloxyalkanoyl,
30 heteroaroyl, alkanoyl, aminocarbonyl, mono-substituted aminoalkanoyl, or disubstituted aminoalkanoyl, or mono-or dialkylaminocarbonyl radical;

R' represents hydrogen and radicals as defined for R³ or R and R' together with the nitrogen to which they are

1-pyrrolidinyl.

attached represent a heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl radical;

R1, R1' and R1" independently represent hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, benzyl, phenylpropyl, -C(O)NH2 and propargyl radicals;

R² represents CH₃SCH₂CH₂-, iso-butyl, n-butyl, benzyl,
4-fluorobenzyl, 2-naphthylmethyl and cyclohexylmethyl
10 radicals;

R³ represents propyl, isobutyl, isoamyl, n-butyl, n-propyl, cyclohexyl, cyclohexylmethyl, benzyland pyridylmethyl radicals;

R4 represents hydrogen and methyl, ethyl, i-propyl, n-propyl, n-butyl, t-butyl, 1,1-dimethylpropyl and phenyl radicals;

- 20 R⁷ and R⁷ independently represent methyl, ethyl, propyl and butyl radicals, or together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl or cyclohexyl radical;
- R8 represents methylcarbonyl, phenyl, hydroxy, methoxy, cyano, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, isopropoxycarbonyl, t-butoxycarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, carboxyl, methoxycarbonyl, methylsulfonyl, methylthio, phenylsulfonyl, phenyl, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridyl, 2-, 3- or 4-pyridyl N-oxide, N,N-dimethylamino, 1-piperidinyl, 4-morpholinyl, 4-(N-methyl)piperazinyl and
- 29. Compound of Claim 26 wherein \mathbb{R}^4 and \mathbb{R}^5 35 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bonded

form a pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl, morpholinyl or piperazinyl radical.

- 30. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 31. Method of inhibiting a retroviral protease comprising administering a protease inhibiting amount of10 a composition of Claim 29.
 - 32. Method of Claim 30 wherein the retroviral protease is HIV protease.
- 33. Method of treating a retroviral infection comprising administering an effective amount of a composition of Claim 29.
- 34. Method of Claim 32 wherein the retroviral 20 infection is an HIV infection.
 - 35. Method for treating AIDS comprising administering an effective amount of a composition of Claim 29.

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36. A compound represented by the formula:

30 wherein:

 P^1 and P^2 independently represent hydrogen, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl,

cycloalkylcarbonyl, cycloalkylalkoxycarbonyl, cycloalkylalkanoyl, alkanoyl, aralkanoyl, aroyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonylalkyl, aryloxyalkanoyl, heterocyclylcarbonyl, heterocyclyloxycarbonyl, heterocyclylalkanoyl, heterocyclylalkoxycarbonyl, heteroaralkanoyl, heteroaralkoxycarbonyl, heteroaryloxycarbonyl, heteroaroyl, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, aryloxyalkyl, heteroaryloxyalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, aminocarbonyl, aminoalkanoyl, and mono- and disubstituted 10 aminocarbonyl and mono- and disubstituted aminoalkanoyl radicals wherein the substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyalkyl radicals, or where said 15 aminoalkanoyl radical is disubstituted, said substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocycloalkyl or heteroaryl radical;

R² represents alkyl, aryl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl

20 and aralkyl radicals, which radicals are optionally
substituted with a group selected from alkyl and halogen
radicals, -NO₂, -C≡N, CF₃, -OR⁹, -SR⁹, wherein R⁹
represents hydrogen and alkyl radicals;

R3 represents hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, alkenyl, alkynyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxyalkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, heteroaryl, heterocycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, aminoalkyl and mono- and disubstituted aminoalkyl radicals, wherein said substituents are selected from alkyl, aryl, aralkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heterocycloalkyl, and heterocycloalkylalkyl radicals, or in the case of a disubstituted aminoalkyl radical, said substituents along with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, form a heterocycloalkyl or a heteroaryl radical, and thioalkyl,

alkylthioalkyl and arylthioalkyl and the sulfone and sulfoxide derivatives thereof;

R4 represents hydrogen and radicals as defined by R3;

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- ${\bf R}^7$ and ${\bf R}^7$ ' independently represent radicals as defined for ${\bf R}^3$; amino acid side chains selected from the group consisting of valine, isoleucine, glycine, alanine, alloisoleucine, asparagine, leucine, glutamine, and
- t-butylglycine; radicals represented by the formulas -C(0)R¹⁶, -CO₂R¹⁶, -SO₂R¹⁶, -SR¹⁶, -CONR¹⁶R¹⁷, -CF₃ and -NR¹⁶R¹⁷; or R⁷ and R⁷ together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a cycloalkyl radical;
- 15 R⁸ represents cyano, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radicals and radicals represented by the formulas C(0)R¹⁶, CO₂R¹⁶, SO₂R¹⁶, SR¹⁶, CONR¹⁶R¹⁷, CF₃ and NR¹⁶R¹⁷;
- wherein R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ independently represent hydrogen and radicals as defined for R³, or R¹⁶ and R¹⁷ together with a nitrogen to which they are attached in the formula NR¹⁶R¹⁷ represent heterocycloalkyl and heteroaryl radicals;

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n represents an integer of from 0 to 6.

- 37. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of Claim 36 and a pharmaceutically acceptable30 carrier.
 - 38. Method of inhibiting a retroviral protease comprising administering a protease inhibiting amount of a composition of Claim 37.

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- 39. Method of Claim 38 wherein the retroviral protease is HIV protease.
- 40. Method of treating a retroviral infection comprising administering an effective amount of a composition of Claim 37.
 - 41. Method of Claim 39 wherein the retroviral infection is an HIV infection.

42. Method for treating AIDS comprising administering an effective amount of a composition of Claim 37.